

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a caricatured image, said method comprising:

storing a reference image having predefined feature areas, each said feature area of the reference image encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference image;

receiving an input image to be caricatured;

identifying a plurality of points within the input image;

identifying plural feature areas on the input image, corresponding to the predefined feature areas on the reference image, all such corresponding feature areas each said feature area encompassing the same a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference image; ~~input image;~~

determining in which of the identified feature areas each of the plurality of points lie; and

independently applying respectively associated caricaturing transformations to each point the image components located within the identified respectively associated feature areas in the input image so as to generate a caricatured image comprising a

composite of the transformed points ~~components~~ located in said feature areas; and
~~areas, each transformed feature area including an independently transformed version of~~
~~its respectively corresponding component.~~

wherein the applying step comprises calculating, for each point, the position that
said each point should take within a corresponding caricatured image feature area as a
function of the relative dimensions of (a) the determined feature area within the input
image to (b) the respectively corresponding feature area in the reference image.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the caricaturing transformations comprise at least one of a scaling transformation and/or a translation transformation.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

determining a caricature level parameter defining the amount of caricaturing to be applied to the input image in dependence on the intended size of the caricature image to be generated; and

inputting said determined caricature level parameter to the transformation processes, thereby applying the caricaturing transformations in dependence on the determined caricature level.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the input image comprises an image of a human face, the identified feature areas each containing a particular human facial feature as said image component encompassed therein.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when executed by a computer system, the computer system operates according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A caricature generation system, comprising:
storage means arranged in use to store a reference image and data defining pre-defined feature areas of the reference image, each said feature area of the reference image also encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference image;

an image input means for receiving an input image to be caricatured; and
processing means arranged in use to:

- i) identify a plurality of points within the input image;
- ii) identify plural feature areas on the input image, corresponding to the predefined feature areas on the reference image, all such corresponding each said feature-area areas encompassing the same a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference image; input image; and
- iii) determine in which of the identified feature areas the point lies;
- iv) ~~ii)~~ independently apply respectively associated caricaturing transformations to each point the image components found in each of at least two of the identified feature areas in the input image so as to generate a caricatured image comprising the independently transformed points located image components in the respectively associated feature areas; and areas.
- v) calculate for each point, the position that said each point should take within a corresponding caricatured image feature area as a function of the relative dimensions of (a) the determined feature area within the input image to (b) the respectively corresponding feature area in the reference image.

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10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein the caricaturing transformations comprise at least one of a scaling transformation and/or a translation transformation.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the processing means is further arranged in use to:

i) determine a caricature level parameter defining the amount of caricaturing to be applied to the input image in dependence on the intended size of the caricature image to be generated; and

ii) input said determined caricature level parameter to the transformation processes, thereby applying the caricaturing transformations in dependence on the determined caricature level.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the input image comprises an image of a human face, the identified feature areas each containing a particular human facial feature as said image component encompassed therein.